

20181-2:DJL:lmk:142512

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:) Attorney Docket No. 20181-2
)
Egan, Patrick)
)
PRE-FABRICATED WALL PANELING) Group Art Unit 3635

DECLARATION OF RAY MICHAM

I, Ray Micham, hereby swear and affirm as follows:

1. I am the former President of Heartwood Timber Frames in Swanton, Ohio. Our business was framing buildings, typically houses, with timber frames. As a part of this work, we also framed houses with pre-fabricated wall paneling.
2. In particular, our company purchased and used pre-fabricated wall paneling from Thermocore Panel Systems in Indiana and Mr. Pat Egan. Such panel systems are of the type illustrated in Drawings Figs. 1A-8 and set forth in claims 1-23 attached here as Exhibit A. In particular, I had experience with one house that we built with Thermocore's panel that had a wall panel thickness, shown as thickness T₄ in attached Drawing Fig. 1C, of 4 inches (hereafter "4" panel"). Because of the cost savings and advantages of the 4" panel, I would never go back to the prior approach.
3. Prior to Pat Egan's Thermocore 4" panel, I had never seen a 4" pre-fabricated wall panel before.
4. I consider the 4" wall panel to be not obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this field considering pre-existing technology such as 4 1/2" and 5 1/2" panels.
5. The 4" wall panel invention, as compared to previous stick built frame construction and compared to previous conventional wall paneling systems having, for

example 4 1/2" or 5 1/2" thickness, leads to significant cost savings to the subcontractor which may be passed on to the homeowner.

6. The only downside to the 4" panel is that it has less R-value for insulation. This is outweighed by its benefits.

7. For example, the 4" panel invention reduces, if not completely eliminates, the need for the costs of carpenters furring the jamb on windows and doors. I estimate this cost saving alone as approximately \$20 to \$25 per door.

8. I consider Pat Egan's 4" panel to be very innovative.

9. Other than being a satisfied customer, I have no financial interest in Thermocore or its patent application.

10. I, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, declare that the facts set forth in this Declaration are true; all statements made of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

11/22/01
Date of Signature

By:

Ray Micham
Ray Micham